

DOS Partner a friend for new users

Many users who feel comfortable using word processing or spreadsheet programs freeze up when they have to navigate the chilly waters of DOS.

DOS commands make sense to some people; but to others they will forever seem mysterious, illogical and beyond comprehension.

For this second group, and for casual users everywhere, there is now a helpful program that spares you from the agony of remembering and typing DOS commands. It's called DOS Partner.

DOS Partner allows you to forget typed commands and syntax. Instead, you use an intuitive menu system to start up programs, manage files and organize your hard disk. You need never again look at a manual or face the blank stare of the DOS prompt. But it's not for everyone.

With this program you can:

■ **Launch applications.** During installation DOS Partner "teaches itself" about the existing programs on your disk. After that, you can launch into any of the listed programs by highlighting a menu



Hillel Segal

choice. When you exit from your application, you're returned to the DOS Partner menu system. If a program has tricky start up options, or DOS Partner doesn't recognize it from the installation

process, you can follow menu prompts to list any program.

■ **Manage directories.** Even the terms "directory" and "subdirectory" can cause confusion to the new user. Recognizing this, DOS Partner lets you adopt a filing cabinet analogy where directories and subdirectories become "drawers" and "subdrawers." While the renaming may seem trivial, there are some powerful commands that the program allows you to apply to directories.

In addition to viewing a directory's contents or renaming it, you can move a parent directory and

all its subdirectories and files to another location on the same disk or to a different disk. Even an old hand with DOS would find this maneuver tricky and time-consuming.

■ **Manage files.** Most new users are either unaware of or bewildered by the finicky rules for renaming, moving, copying or deleting files in DOS. In DOS Partner, all of these commands are accomplished by on-screen menus and displays. You never type in a file name, you select it by highlighting and then pressing the spacebar. In keeping with the filing cabinet analogy, files with similar extensions can be grouped into folders and acted on together.

Quite often in an office there is no one who has a firm understanding of DOS commands. In such a situation DOS Partner would be a valuable resource in file and hard disk management.

Even if your office has a computer "guru" who can write clever batch menu systems, the expert usually can't devote time to the periodic chores often necessary with a hard disk. DOS Partner, on the

other hand, works with any level of user and is always accessible for these routine.

The program is of little use, however, if you rarely switch programs or need to rely upon DOS commands. Many application programs allow you to rename and copy documents without leaving the program.

■ **The bottom line:** Many executives have had computers thrust in front of them, with little or no training. By nature, they are especially reluctant to admit difficulties switching between programs and in renaming and copying files. To this group and casual users everywhere, I recommend DOS Partner. It lets you concentrate on your work, not on cryptic commands.

DOS Partner is distributed by EasySoft Inc., 1215 Hightower Trail, Suite B100, Atlanta 30350; (404) 992-4140. It costs \$99.

Hillel Segal's weekly column evaluates gadgets, small-computer hardware and software, seminars, and books designed to enhance business productivity.